# The Clarion Call

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Newsletter of the Department of Massachusetts

## From The Department Commander

Brothers,

I hope that you all enjoyed a Happy Thanksgiving with your family and friends. As we now celebrate the Christmas and Chanukah Holidays, I wish you and your family peace, health and happiness in the coming year.

At the Department level. We are working on setting the dates for all of the Department led events for 2025 and will send an announcement out in a Department Order in January. This is to enable everyone to plan ahead to attend as many events as possible. Getting out into the community and being seen by others is a great way to gain new members.

Thanks to the hard work of Brother Dexter Bishop, the Department Camp Organizer, we have two new Camps forming, The Chief Petty Officer Frederick Morong Camp 24 in Gloucester, MA and the Private Emerson P. Gould Camp 119 in Topsfield, MA. This is great news so please help us get the word out into the community about these two new Camps.

Outside of the two new Camps forming, we have only two new Brothers to existing Camps in the Department, both in Camp 54. I ask that you all increase your efforts to recruit new members.

Let us set a combined goal of 20 new Brothers in Calendar year 2025. That is only two new members per Camp. Please encourage all of your Brothers to help in this effort. Let’s all work together to grow and improve this order for future generations.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Rod

## Annual Gettysburg Remembrance Day Trip

The 2024 Annual Gettysburg Remembrance Day trip was another big success, and the weather cooperated to make this a great weekend for everyone.

After arriving in Gettysburg Thursday afternoon, our group has the evening to themselves to explore the town relax. Friday morning, we set out on our day f touring with our first stop at the new Adams County Historical Society Museum which houses an immersive “Caught in the Crossfire Experience” where you step inside a home trapped between the two armies and experience the horrific sights and sounds of war. After a tour of the museum and lunch, we then set off for a guided tour of the Jennie Wade House. On the morning of July 3rd, near 8:30 am, Mary Virginia “Jennie” Wade was shot dead while kneading dough in her sister’s kitchen on East Cemetery Hill. She was the only civilian killed by fire during the Battle of Gettysburg. The guide recanted the story of jenny’s death and how her body was removed from the house during the fighting.

Next stop was the Shriver House Museum and another guided tour. The tour guide had us travel back in time as we walked through the Shrivers’ meticulously restored 1860 home to learn the civilian side of the Battle of Gettysburg. The tour tells the story of the Shriver family, George, Hettie, Sadie (7) and Mollie (5) and their fate as you move from room to room to appreciate what life was like before, during, and after the Civil War. George was a member of Co. C, 1st Potomac Home Brigade Cavalry/Col. Henry A. Cole's Volunteer Maryland Cavalry. George Shriver was captured at the Battle of Brandy Station on New Year's Day, 1864, near Rectortown, Virginia. George was sent to Camp Sumter prison in Andersonville, GA where he died on August 25, 1864.

Saturday was another action-packed day of activities beginning with the Sons of Veterans Reserve Breakfast at the Eisenhower Hotel for SVR members, followed by our Department’s Ceremony of Remembrance at the National Cemetery. The Department Brothers laid a wreath at the grave of the Massachusetts plot and spoke aloud the names of every Massachusetts soldier buried there so they will never be forgotten.

Following the Ceremony in the cemetery, we walked over to Zeigler’s Grove to the Albert Woolson Memorial on the Gettysburg Battlefield for the Grand Army of the Republic Memorial Ceremony which included the other Allied orders. After the ceremony and wreath laying which included a visit by President Lincoln who recited the Gettysburg address, the SVR presented the Gettysburg park a check to help with

the preservation of the monuments. The check is the result of money raised through the Annual Original Civil War Ball.

Beginning at 1:00 pm the Annual Remembrance Day parade stepped off and proceeded through the town with thousands of onlookers enjoying the sight of the Union and Confederate armies once more marching through the streets of Gettysburg. You can watch the 2024 parade vide at this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjmM5ETO9PQ
Hey who are those handsome men at time 5:23? Our very own First Military district!

Saturday night was the original Civil War Ball, and the opening procession is always led by the Commander in Chief. This year was no different with Brother Kevin and his wife Rosemary, the National President of the Auxiliary Leading us. Proceeds from the ball are donated to the Gettysburg National Battlefield to support monument preservation and maintenance. Sunday morning, we all boarded the bus for home after a very enjoyable weekend. Please join us next year!

## Annual General Butler Memorial Ceremony

On Saturday, November 2nd, 2024, the Department of Massachusetts and the First Military District, SVR conducted our annual Memorial Ceremony for Major General Benjamin Franklin Butler. General Butler was a Major General of the Union Army, accomplished politician, famous lawyer, and successful businessman from Lowell. Born in New Hampshire and raised in Lowell, Butler also had a leadership role in the unsuccessful impeachment of U.S. President Andrew Johnson after the Civil War. He was a colorful and often controversial figure on the national stage and on the Massachusetts political scene, serving five terms in the U.S. House of Representatives and running several campaigns for governor before his election to that office in 1882.

In addition to honoring General Butler, his son-in-law, Medal of Honor recipient Major General Adelbert Ames was also honored as part of the event. General Ames was a West Point graduate from Maine who worked his way up the ranks from Lieutenant to Major General through his heroic deeds at the battle of Bull Run, the Peninsula Campaign, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg and Fort Fisher. After the war, he served as provisional governor of Mississippi and was elected as the state's Senator. It was shortly after his election that he met and married Benjamin Butler's daughter, Blanche.

The ceremony was attended by descendants of General Butler and General Ames, as well as Friends of Hildreth Cemetery and local media, who published a story in the Lowell newspaper.

## GAR and Veteran Grave Markers

Need a GAR or Veteran grave marker for a Civil War Veteran or GAR member? Contact Bill Naughton PDC, our Graves Registration Officer, he has a lot of them available at no cost to the Department of MA Camps. Bill can be contacted via email at billsland@aol.com. Dexter Bishop has some in Topsfield, so if you are closer to Dexter he can be reached at genord9@comcast.net.

## Dedication Ceremony for the Cannons at Mt. Hope Cemetery

October 19th was a beautiful day to officially dedicate the two refurbished pieces of field artillery that stand sentinel over the General Charles Russell Lowell GAR burial plot in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Boston. We had the honor of being joined by Commissioner Robert Santiago, Commissioner of Veteran Services for the City of Boston, Mr. Troy Hencke, the Senior Vice Commander of the Massachusetts Veterans of Foreign Wars, Mary-Dith Tuitt, Commander of the William E. Carter Post 16 American Legion in Boston and Mr. Robert Gold, past President of the Military Historical Society of Massachusetts. The Military Historical Society of Massachusetts awarded Camp 54 a grant towards the cost of the project.

The cannon had to be removed from the old broken brick foundations and taken to a metal shop in Boston where they were properly cleaned and preserved. The new granite bases were manufactured to fir the

cannon, delivered and then the cannon were put in place to continue to stand as protective sentinels over the men whose bodies are laid to rest in that plot.

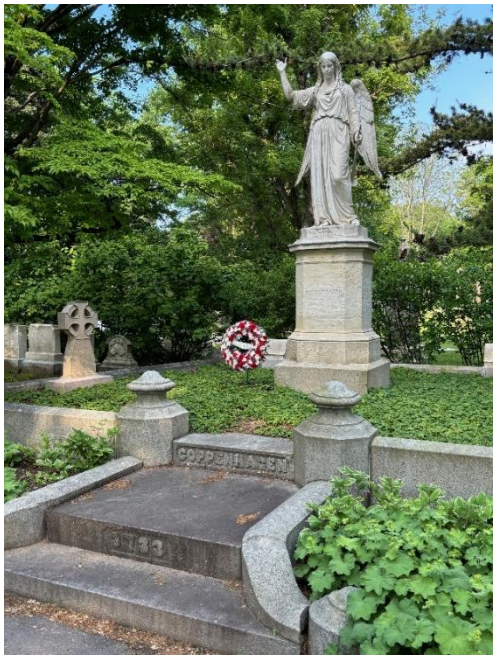
The cannon were originally on wooden gun carriages which eventually rotted away and were disposed of. The cannon were then placed haphazardly on top of a brick and mortar foundation which had deteriorated and the cannon themselves were rusting. A special thanks to Brother Ron Glidden of Camp 54 and his wife Sue for providing fife and drum music as part of the ceremony.

The General Charles Russell Lowell GAR Post 7 was the second largest Post in Boston and had 384 members. It was chartered 11 March 1867 and surrendered its Charter in 1937.

## Department Wreath Placement Work Continues

In the last issue of the *Clarion Call*, we promised an update on why the Department places wreaths at certain locations. Regarding the wreaths placed at Mount Auburn every Memorial Day weekend, there was an officer's meeting to discuss these requirements and Brother Kevin Tucker recounted that an investigation had been made some years ago by Past Department Commander and past Commander in Chief Perley Mellor. The Secretary searched the archive of Proceedings of the Department's Annual Encampments and found the report in the 2010 Proceedings.

This report concluded that the Coppenhagen Trust Fund donation stipulated that income from the fund be used for relief work and for the decoration of graves of veterans at Mount Auburn Cemetery or at a Civil War Memorial within the cemetery where allowed by the cemetery's board of trustees.



Regarding the placement of wreaths at the USN Explorers monument at Hyacinth Path Lot 814. The funds for this wreath come from the Margaretha Myers Trust Fund and stipulate they be used for the maintenance of Lot 814 and to place decorations at veteran's graves or a Civil War Memorial where allowed by the cemetery's board of trustees.

The same report also stipulates that the Charles F. Ellis Trust Fund be used for charitable, benevolent, educational and patriotic work in the City of Chelsea, Massachusetts and the department shall conduct these works at least annually at the Soldiers Home in Chelsea, (now the Massachusetts Veterans Home.) The department holds various programs and the annual Christmas party at the Veterans Home.

The George C. Marshall Trust Fund stipulates that the income generated shall be given over to camps in Worcester for charitable, benevolent, educational or patriotic works. Camp 25 of Worcester places wreaths at four grave sites in two cemeteries and a wreath at the Water Ceremony in Worcester every year on Memorial Day weekend.

The Robert and Ethel Wood Trust Fund stipulates that the funds be used for general purposes, and it was their desire to have a wreath placed on the graves of Robert and Ethel Wood at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Dorchester every December before Christmas. This desire has run afoul of Covid restrictions in the last few years, but we intend to see it renewed.

As of this issue of the *Clarion Call*, there are continued developments in the wreath saga. Commander Fraser leaned from Mt Auburn that what we believed to be Lot 814 is not and Lot 814 is nowhere near Hyacinth Path at Mt Auburn and has no Civil War veterans interred there.

Brother Ed Norris Past Commander in Chief did research and learned that Magaretha Myers and her veteran husband are buried in Lot 814 on Hyacinth Path in Cambridge Cemetery across the street from Mount Auburn. So the research continues and we will post new information as it becomes available. In addition, there is also a wreath recently placed for the Loring fund by JVC Rev Peter Preble and another to be placed for the Wood fund by Ken London.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

John Dupre'
Secretary Treasurer
Department of Massachusetts, SUVCW

## Gen. Geroge Hartsuff, Camp #50 Helps with Hurricane Relief

In the aftermath of hurricane Helene, General George L. Hartsuff Camp #50 in Rockland MA made a direct donation to our brothers in the Virginia Division SCV to assist with their relief efforts. Every penny of the donations went to purchase necessities for those in need, and we were proud to support our Southern Brothers and sisters.

The Virginia Division, Sons of Confederate Veterans posted on social media that “One of those donors who reached out to the Virgina Division and was assisted in finding the correct contacts for donations was members of General Hartsuff Camp, SUVCW, located in Rockland MA. What a kind gesture from our northern countrymen and women.”

Yours in Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

Paul Brundige Camp Commander

## Minutemen of 1861 Medals

In the days following Southern rebels firing on Fort Sumter, President Lincoln called upon the states to send their militias to defend Washington, DC, and put an end to the rebellion. A handful of states answered the call, but none as swift and as robust as Massachusetts. Within a week, the Commonwealth sent over 3,800 men from the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th Massachusetts Volunteer Militia Regiments, 3rd Battalion Massachusetts Rifles, and 1st Massachusetts Battery of Light Artillery.

In the early days of the war the 6th was attacked by a riotous mob in Baltimore in the first blood of the War, the 8th secured Annapolis and provided defenses for the USS Constitution, and the 5th served in the thick of the First Battle of Bull Run. For their service and swift action, these men would become known as the Minutemen of 1861 in the same spirit as their predecessors in 1775.

In 1902, over 40 years since Lincoln's call, the Commonwealth authorized the Minuteman of 1861 Medal to be issued to these men or their families. Given the time between their service and the medals being struck, hundreds of these medals were never claimed. Today, over 700 medals are in the possession of the Massachusetts National Guard Museum. Through a partnership with Camp Charles H. Bond #54, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Department of Massachusetts, these medals can now be claimed by descendants of these men.

To apply for one of these medals, a person must submit a complete application and submit necessary genealogical proofs. The application and a full list of remaining medals are present on the Department of Massachusetts' website.

Calling all Descendents of the

# MINUTEMAN OF 1861

## Claim your Ancestor's Massachusetts Minuteman Medal

These medals were struck in 1902 for each soldier serving in the **3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 8th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Militia**. Today, over **700** of these awards remain unissued. The remaining medals are held by the **Massachusetts National Guard Museum** and in partnership with **Camp Charles H. Bond #104, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War**, can be claimed by persons who can verify their descent from these Patriots.

## CLAIM YOURS TODAY!

Contact: MahernSUVCW@outlook.com
for more information

MNGM
Massachusetts National Guard Museum

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR
CAMP CHARLES H. BOND #104

## Department of Massachusetts Christmas Party at Soldiers Home

The Department of Massachusetts held its annual Christmas Party for Veterans residing at the Soldiers Home in Chelsea on Saturday, December 14th. It was a wonderful evening of Chinese food, baked goods and sweets, music and presents. Special thanks to Alicia Nutile and Winchester Savings Bank for providing some special gifts, as well as Linda Murray for organizing quilt and afghan donations. Thanks to all who contributed and those volunteers who helped serve food at the party.

## Lexington Civil War Monument Rededication

A group of our SUVCW Brothers attended the official dedication of the new names of fallen Civil War soldiers tablet at the town of Lexington, MA Civil War Monument. National Senior Vice Commander in Chief Kevin Tucker, Past Commander in Chief Ed Norris, Department Commander Rod Fraser, Dexter Bishop PDC, John Dupre PDC and Brother Thomas Potter all joined the dedication.

The Soldiers' Monument is an enduring reminder of Concord's Civil War history. A bronze tablet lists the names of beloved husbands, fathers, brothers, and sons honored for their ultimate sacrifice. The rededication was held on the occasion of the addition of Private George Washington Dugan to the tablet.

George Washington Dugan was born in Concord around 1817 and lived here for most of his life. He is the only Black man from Concord to enlist in the Civil War. He mustered into Company A of the 54 th Massachusetts Volunteer Regiment. He took part in the assault of Fort Wagner on July 18, 1863. The army listed Private Dugan and 50 other Black soldiers as missing that day. Only one of the 51 men was found alive.

Private Dugan's name was not placed on the monument in 1867 when it was initially erected or in 1882 or 1915 when the town replaced the bronze tablet to add names unintentionally left off the Memorial because the army listed Private Dugan as MIA. The Civil War Soldiers' Monument only lists the names of soldiers that died in the war either by wounds received or disease contracted in their service before March 19, 1866, when the first Soldiers' Monument committee was appointed. The Monument memorializes the dead; therefore, Private Dugan's official MIA status prevented his inclusion.

In 1932 the Commonwealth's Adjutant General's Office changed his status to "supposed killed." This change in designation with a death date before March 19, 1866, allows the 2021 committee to request adding his name to the monument.

What this monument currently needs is beyond routine maintenance and could cost $150,000 or more. Presently, the price of metal is volatile. Quotes are only good for weeks at a time. Neglecting preservation of the Soldiers' Monument now means there is a potential for more maintenance issues to arise in the future and for the project's cost to increase. However, choosing to conserve and preserve the Monument now means that the maintenance from here on out will be simple and more manageable and cost effective.

## Grave Rededication at Maplewood Cemetery for Sgt. Doak

Willie Grout Camp #25 conducted a Grave Rededication Ceremony on December 7th for James Doak. Sgt. Doak served with Co. K, 4th Maine Infantry from June 15, 1861 until July 19, 1864. His family had been searching for his grave during the past two decades and recently discovered it at Maplewood Cemetery, Marlborough, Massachusetts. Sgt. Doak died on June 9, 1898.

## *Clarion Call* Publication Dates and Article Submissions

*The Clarion Call* is published quarterly. Anticipated publication months are December, March, June, and September. The Editor will email a "Call for articles" to Department Officers and Camp Commanders approximately 14 days prior to publication. However, any Brother who would like to submit an article or Camp news may do so at any time by contacting the Editor at suvcwclarioncall@gmail.com.

## Wreath Placed on Grave of Past President of Woman's Relief Corp

On December 14, Department Junior Vice Commander, Rev. Peter Preble and his assistant, placed a wreath on the grave of Benjamin and Carrie Loring. Carrie Loring, Past President of the Woman's Relief Corps established a fund in the name of her husband to be used to further the mission of the Sons. The Department Commander issued a Department order that the Loring's grave be decorated every memorial day but since we missed Memorial Day it was decided to place a wreath for the holidays.

## Feedback From Our Readers

Brothers,

Great newsletter! I know how challenging putting a publication together can be, waiting for folks to get their articles turned in and then editing them for grammar and length. Patience, creativity, and organization are all part of the special skill set.

I took special note of the GAR emblem used on page 14. If you look closely, there's a 3-letter logo at the top; the letters are E, B, and W, which stand for Erastus B. Wolcott. The emblem is the coat of arms designed by and for Milwaukee's E.B. Wolcott GAR Post #1, chartered in early 1880, just a couple of weeks after Dr. Wolcott passed away. The emblem is featured on the post's rosters and other ephemera.

Wolcott served as Wisconsin's Surgeon General during the Civil War. When he died, his second wife, who was one of the first female doctors here and much younger, used money left in his will to erect a statue of him, accomplished in 1920. The statue still stands today on a bluff looking east out over Lake Michigan, although since 1920, the growth of trees has obscured the view.

Post #1 became the largest and most influential posts in Wisconsin, numbering over 700 members. It boasted two PCinCs. While there were other GAR posts in Milwaukee, eventually all consolidated into Post #1 as the comrades passed on. The last Post #1 member passed away in 1946.

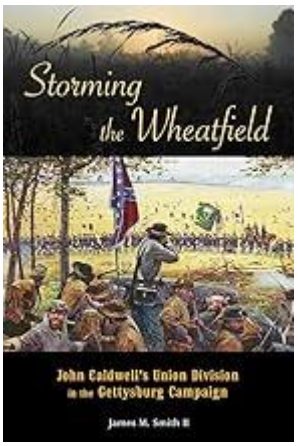
In F, C, & L,
Steve Michaels, PCinC

## *Book Review Column*

*The Clarion Call* Book Review Column is intended to encourage further research into Civil War history. It is the Editor's hope to include both new books as well as old favorites worth rereading.

## Storming the Wheatfield: John Caldwell's Union Division in the Gettysburg Campaign by James M. Smith II

While it may seem strange to review a book focusing on Gettysburg as we approach the holiday season, my recent annual pilgrimage to Gettysburg Remembrance Day that included a visit to "The Wheatfield" inspired me to do learn more about the Irish Brigade. This book helped in that quest. *Storming the Wheatfield* is a historical account that focuses on the intense and bloody confrontation at the Wheatfield during the Battle of Gettysburg. Smith brings this key moment to life with vivid descriptions and thorough research, highlighting the bravery and sacrifice of the soldiers involved.




Smith gives significant attention to the role of the 28th Massachusetts Infantry Regiment during the Battle of Gettysburg, particularly their involvement in the fight for the Wheatfield on July 2, 1863. The regiment, part of the Union Army, played a crucial role in holding the position despite facing a heavy Confederate assault.

Smith highlights the extreme challenges faced by the 28th Massachusetts, including their difficult position in the midst of intense fighting and the staggering casualties they suffered. The regiment's courage and determination are central themes in the narrative, as they were tasked with defending a vital part of the Union line. The soldiers' perseverance under fire, despite being outnumbered and outgunned, is portrayed as a testament to their bravery and resolve. The following is an excerpt from *Storming the Wheatfield*:

*The unfurled dark green banner of the 28th Massachusetts, proudly displaying the Harp of Erin, moved forward next to the red-white-and-blue colors of the United States. The men fixed bayonets as they pressed through the trampled wheat toward the enemy, all the while chanting their regimental motto, "Faugh a Ballagh" (clear the way).*

*Storming the Wheatfield* might be the perfect Christmas gift for those wishing to learn more about the fight at The Wheatfield or about the Irish Brigade. It is available on Amazon.

## From The Department Patriotic Instructor

### *Christmas on the Rappahannock*

As told by John Paxton, who was an 18 year old private in the 140th Pa.

I started for Richmond in July, 1862, a lad eighteen years old, a junior in college, and chafing to be at it,—to double quick it after John Brown's soul, which, since it did not require a knapsack or three days' rations or a canteen or a halt during the night for sleep, was always marching on.

On the night before Christmas, 1862, I was a dejected young patriot, wishing I hadn't done it, shivering in the open weather a mile back of the Rappahannock, on the reserve picket and exposed to a wet snowstorm. There was not a stick of wood within five miles of us; all cut down, down, even the roots of trees, and burned up. We lay down on our rubber blankets, pulled our woolen blankets over us, spooned it as close as we could get to steal warmth from our comrades and tried not to cry.

Next morning the snow lay heavy and deep, and the men, when I wakened and looked about me, reminded me of a church graveyard in winter. "Fall in for picket duty. There, come, Moore, McMeaus, Paxton, Perrine, Pollock, fall in." We fell in, of course. No breakfast; chilled to the marrow; snow a foot deep. We tightened our belts on our empty stomachs, seized our rifles and marched to the river to take our six hours on duty.

It was Christmas Day, 1862. "And so this is war," my old me said to himself while he paced in the snow his two hours on the river's brink. "And I am out here to shoot that lean, lank, coughing- cadaverous-looking butternut fellow over the river. So this is war; this is being a soldier; this is the genuine article; this is H. Greeley's 'On to Richmond.' Well, I wish he were here in my place, running to keep warm, pounding his arms and breast to make the chilled blood circulate. So this is war, tramping up and down this river my fifty yards with wet feet, empty stomach, swollen nose."

Alas, when lying under the trees in the college campus last June, war meant to me martial music, gorgeous brigadiers in blue and gold, tall young men in line, shining in brass. War meant to me tumultuous memories of Bunker Hill, Caesar's Tenth Legion, the charge of the Six Hundred,—anything but this. Pshaw, I wish I were home. Let me see. Home? God's country. A tear? Yes, it is a tear. What are they doing at home? This is Christmas Day. Home? Well, stockings on the wall, candy, turkey, fun, merry Christmas, and the face of the girl I left behind. Another tear? Yes, I couldn't help it. I was only eighteen, and there was such a contrast between Christmas, 1862, on the Rappahannock and other Christmases. Yes, there was a girl, too,—such sweet eyes, such long lashes, such a low tender voice.

"Come, move quicker. Who goes there?" Shift the rifle from- one aching shoulder to the other.

“Hello, Johnny, what are you up to?” The river was narrow, but deep and swift. It was a wet cold, not a freezing cold. There was no ice, too swift for that.

“Hello, Johnny, what you coughing so for?”

“Yank, with no overcoat, shoes full of holes, nothing to eat but parched corn and tobacco, and with this derned Yankee snow a foot deep, there’s nothin’ left, nothin’ but to get up a cough by way of protestin’ against this infernal ill treatment of the body. We uns, Yank, all have a cough over here, and there’s no sayin’ which will run us to hole first, the cough or your bullets.”

The snow still fell, the keen wind, raw and fierce, cut to the bone. It was God’s worst weather, in God’s forlornest, bleakest spot of ground, that Christmas Day of ’62 on the Rappahannock, a half-mile below the town of Fredericksburg. But come, pick up your prostrate pluck, you shivering private. Surely there is enough dampness around without your adding to it your tears.

“Let’s laugh, boys.”

“Hello, Johnny.”

“Hello, yourself, Yank.”

“Merry Christmas, Johnny.”

“Same to you, Yank.”

“Say, Johnny, got anything to trade?”

“Parched corn and tobacco,—the size of our Christmas, Yank.”

“All right; you shall have some of our coffee and sugar and pork. Boys, find the boats.”

Such boats ! I see the children sailing them on the small lakes in our Central Park. Some Yankee, desperately hungry for tobacco, invented them for trading with the Johnnies. They were hid away under the banks of the river for successive relays of pickets.

We got out the boats. An old handkerchief answered for a sail. We loaded them with coffee, sugar, pork, and set the sail and watched them slowly creep to the other shore. And the Johnnies?

To see them crowd the bank and push and scramble to be first to seize the boats, going into the water and stretching out their long arms. Then, when they pulled the boats ashore, and stood in a group over the cargo, and to hear their exclamations, “Hurrah for hog.” “Say, that’s not roasted rye, but genuine coffee. Smell it, you’uns.” “And sugar, too!”

Then they divided the consignment. They laughed and shouted, “Reckon you’uns been good to we’uns this Christmas Day, Yanks.” Then they put parched corn, tobacco, ripe persimmons, into the boats and sent them back to us. And we chewed the parched corn, smoked real Virginia leaf, ate persimmons, which if they weren’t very filling at least contracted our stomachs to the size of our Christmas dinner.

And so the day passed. We shouted, “Merry Christmas, Johnny.” They shouted, “Same to you, Yank.” And we forgot the biting wind, the chilling cold ; we forgot those men over there were our enemies, whom it might be our duty to shoot before evening. We had bridged the river, spanned the bloody chasm. We were brothers, not foes, waving salutations of good-will in the name of the Babe of Bethlehem, on Christmas Day in ’62. At the very front of the opposing armies, the Christ Child struck a truce for us, broke down the wall of partition, became our peace. We exchanged gifts. We shouted greetings back and forth. We kept Christmas and our hearts were lighter for it, and our shivering bodies were not quite so cold.

In Fraternity, Charity and Loyalty,

George Maple, PDC

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